

YALE
MEDICAL LIBRARY



HISTORICAL
LIBRARY



Evolution of the Eye.
Five Successive Stages.

1890

6

1891

1892

1893



Evolution of the Eye. *Five Successive Stages.*





A CONCISE VIEW
OF
ALL THE MOST IMPORTANT FACTS
WHICH HAVE HITHERTO APPEARED
CONCERNING
THE COW-POX.

BY C. R. AIKIN,

Member of the Royal College of Surgeons in London.

L O N D O N :

PRINTED FOR R. PHILLIPS, ST. PAUL'S
CHURCH-YARD;

SOLD BY T. HURST, AND H. D. SYMONDS,
PATERNOSTER-ROW; AND BY ALL
OTHER BOOKSELLERS.

DAVIS, WILKS, & TAYLOR, PRINTERS, CHANCERY-LANE.

1801.



P R E F A C E.

THE general interest which every novelty in the science of medicine excites in this country, whilst it affords a temporary success to impostures of every kind, produces this great advantage, however, that no very material improvement in the healing art, when once fairly brought before the bar of the public, is likely to sink into neglect, so long as it possesses such intrinsic value as really to merit the patronage of the candid and liberal part of the community.

It is to the credit of the inoculation of the cow-pox, that it has been introduced by no illiberal arts or empirical pretensions : on the con-

trary, its supporters have contented themselves with laying before the public the event of experiments conducted with ability and perfect impartiality ; so all the reputation which the practice has hitherto acquired, may be considered as most fairly earned.

The zeal which is always kindled in a pursuit after novelty has here been confined to the laudable endeavour at exterminating a very ferious and formidable disease, by suggesting, but not obtruding on the public, a mild and easy substitute.

The result of these inquiries has afforded such favourable testimony to the merits of this undertaking, that the vaccine inoculation has spread to distant parts of the kingdom,

dom, and has been introduced into some neighbouring countries of Europe under very favourable auspices : and, in this island at least, there are few medical practitioners who do not begin to turn their attention to this subject.

Under these circumstances I have thought that it would be not unacceptable to those who are interested in medical improvements, to present a concise view of the most interesting facts relative to the cow-pox in every form, and the practical directions to be followed during its inoculation. The following pages will perhaps be especially convenient to those who have not an opportunity of entering more at large into the subject, and consulting all the sources of information (which even now are not a

7 few),

few), in order to gain that general knowledge which may determine their practice. There are, it is true, several curious and important branches of inquiry, connected in a more distant manner with facts here mentioned, which it would be foreign from the purpose and extent of this little work to notice. The reader who is fond of these interesting pursuits will find several valuable hints in the excellent works that have afforded the materials for this compilation; so that both a considerable immediate benefit to the health of mankind which the vaccine inoculation promises, and the light which may be thrown by its means upon the subject of contagion in general, render it highly worthy of the public attention.

BROAD-STREET BUILDINGS.

CONTENTS.

CHAP. I.

OF THE NATURAL OR CASUAL COW-POX

1. Of the Cow-Pox as affecting Cows 7

Insults on the udder arising from several causes, as stinging of flies, &c.—the genuine cow-pox a distinct disease from the above—its symptoms and progress in the cow—parts of the kingdom in which it has been found—its origin from the grease of horses as maintained by Dr. Jenner.

2. Of the Casual Cow-Pox as affecting the Human Species - 24

Symptoms and progress of the disorder in persons who milk diseased cows—enumeration of the most important points relative to this disease which are already fully established—circumstances in which the cow-pox resembles the small-pox, and those wherein it differs.

CHAP. II.

OF THE INOCULATED COW-POX 43

*The cow-pox is rendered milder by inoculation
—but equally preserves against variolous con-
tagion*

tagion—differences between the casual and inoculated cow pox.

The following circumstances in conducting the vaccine inoculation considered: v. z. Selection of Matter: Proper Subjects and Seasons for Inoculation: Method of performing this Operation: Progress of the Disease (with reference to the Place),—varieties that occur, such as rash, subsequent ulceration of the arm, and a truly pustular eruption—causes of this latter symptom. Medical Treatment, what required for the general fever, and local sore—comparison between the small pox and cow-pox pustule in appearance and contents—causes of failure in vaccine inoculation and distinguishing marks.

CHAP. III.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS CONCERNING VACCINE INOCULATION 91

Whether the cow-pox is the parent disease to the small-pox—effects of each disease in exciting scrophula—peculiar value of the vaccine inoculation in not exposing life to hazard.

A
CONCISE VIEW, ETC.

CONCERNING
THE COW-POX.

CHAP. I.

OF THE NATURAL OR CASUAL
COW-POX.

IN several parts of this kingdom where cows are kept for the purposes of the dairy, a peculiar eruptive disease has been occasionally observed among the herd, affecting the udder and teats of these animals, which has pretty generally obtained the name of *The Cow-Pox*.

Till within these last two years, the knowledge of this distemper has been chiefly confined to the persons immediately employed in the dairies, and to farriers and cow-doctors practising in the neighbourhood; but, by the latter, it appears to have been observed with considerable accuracy, and judicious means to have been employed for its removal.

Wherever it has been known, however, the circumstances which now render it an inquiry of the most interesting kind have likewise been remarked: they are, that the disorder is communicated, by actual contact, to the milkers who handle the teats of the diseased cows, and from them
again

again is often spread through a numerous herd ; that, when affecting the human species, it is not merely confined to the local disease of the hands and arms, but also occasions a general indisposition, often severe, but never fatal, which runs a regular course ; and that the person who has once undergone it, is ever after secure against the infection of the small-pox, either in the natural way by contagion, or by inoculation.

These circumstances, especially the latter, appear to have been known, time out of mind, to the inhabitants of the particular districts where the disease has from time to time appeared, and only to these ; a fact

worthy of note in the history of the spread of human knowledge, and which might perhaps appear improbable, if we were not assured that the supposed Oriental method of inoculation for the small-pox, soon after its introduction into England as a foreign invention, was discovered to have existed from time immemorial in a corner of South Wales not very obscure or unfrequented (*a*).

The above-mentioned facts relating to the cow-pox have indeed been casually communicated as curious circumstances in the history of dif-

(*a*) See Dr. Woodville's *History of the Inoculation of the Small-pox*, a work replete with curious and valuable matter.

ease,

ease, to some men eminent for their researches into physiology, but without exciting that high attention which they deserved; till, in 1798, Dr. Jenner of Berkley in Gloucestershire (a district celebrated for the extent and excellence of its dairies) published several very highly curious and interesting particulars concerning this disease (*b*), which have fully presented it to general notice, and will not fail

(*b*) See Dr. Jenner's *Inquiry into the Causes and Effects of the Variolæ Vaccinæ*, &c. London, 1798; which interesting work it is unnecessary here to refer to continually, as a great part of its contents have been incorporated in the following pages.

to place his name on the honourable list of public benefactors.

The subject having been since illustrated by further remarks and experiments, both by the same author(c), and by other medical practitioners of acknowledged abilities, it may fairly be regarded as no longer in its infancy, and may claim from the public the attention due to every thing in which the general welfare is decidedly interested.

(c) See *Further Observations on the Variolæ Vaccinæ*, 1709, by Dr. Jenner; and *A Continuation of Facts and Observations relative to the Variolæ Vaccinæ*, 1800, by the same.

I. *Of the Cow-Pox as affecting Cows.*

The cow, though in general a healthy animal, is subject to some peculiar diseases, many of which she probably owes to her domestication and intimate connection with man. Some of them have their seat in the udder, especially whilst it is performing the important office of the secretion of milk; and these it is now become of peculiar consequence to attend to, and to discriminate with accuracy.

From the observations of those who are the most conversant with this animal, it appears that there are se-

veral causes which may produce sores upon the udder and teats, especially such as excite any irritation upon those organs during the season when the secretion of milk goes on with the greatest vigour. The stinging of flies, rough handling during milking, and other external irritations of this kind, will often occasion small white blisters on the parts, which, however, never extend more than skin-deep, and generally are very easy of cure.

Another, and a more serious disorder in these parts, is sometimes produced by suffering a cow, while in full milking, to remain for a day or two unmilked in order to distend the udder when naturally small. This
is

is a common artifice practised at fairs and cattle markets, in order to increase the price of the cow, as a large udder is reckoned an important point in the value of the animal. By this cruel and unworthy fraud, the vessels that supply this organ are kept for an unusual length of time in a state of high distention, and this frequently terminates in violent inflammation of these parts, succeeded by large eruptions over the teats and udder, which sometimes leave deep and troublesome sores. The matter discharged from these ulcers will communicate a similar pustular disorder to the hands of the milkers, when the skin is broken in any part; and often affects them with
foul

foul and extensive ulcers that sometimes occasion pustules on the arms and shoulders, and prove tedious and difficult of cure. A suppression of the milk in puerperal women often affords a parallel instance of the formation of abscess, though in them the progress and form of the local disease is somewhat different.

But the genuine cow-pox is a distinct disease from those which have been hitherto mentioned. It generally makes its appearance in the spring, and shows itself in irregular pustules on the teats or nipples of the udder. They are at first of a palish blue or rather a livid colour, and contain a thin watery acrid fluid.

The

The surrounding parts are swelled, hardened, and inflamed. These pustules are very apt, unless timely remedies be applied, to degenerate into deep eroding ulcers, which *eat into the flesh*, as the cow-doctors very properly term it, and constantly discharge a matter which commonly grows thicker as the disease lasts, and hardens into a scab. Now and then the cow becomes generally indisposed, loses her appetite, and gives less milk than usual; but it often happens that the disorder, though severe, is entirely local. With regard to the circumstance of yielding less milk, it may be observed, that this may perhaps be partly owing to the pain
given

given in drawing the nipples ; for the cow seems to have some voluntary command over the yield of milk. It is a well-known fact in dairies, that a person who has a soft hand in milking will draw more from the udder than one who handles it roughly.

The cow-doctors generally succeed in checking this disorder in its earlier stages, by applying to the fore some strong and rather corrosive metallic solution, such as of white or blue vitriol. The cow-pox never proves fatal to cows, nor is it infectious in the usual manner of contagious distempers, but can only be communicated to them, or to men, by actual contact with the specific matter from the

the

the fores. Hence it is, that cows which are not in milk escape the disease entirely, though constantly in the same field with those that are highly infected; and, as far as observations have hitherto been made, it is only from the circumstance of the milker handling the teats of the sound cows after touching the diseased, that the cow-pox ever spreads among the herd. This will explain another observation which has been made, that the infection will often keep long confined to the cattle of a single farm, in the midst of other herds, since particular milkers are employed in each. Both cows and
men.

men may suffer under this disorder repeatedly, but it seems to be proved that, after the first time of infection, the succeeding attacks are much less virulent (to the human species at least), and much easier of cure.

The cow-pox is more particularly distinguished from the lighter fores of the udder by having a great tendency to produce a deep hollow sore; and differs from the other ulcerations of this organ, by a livid blueness which constantly attends it, and perhaps by a peculiar characteristic appearance which is only to be learnt by actual observation.

This disease, in its natural state,

is only partially known throughout the country, but is pretty widely diffused ; and, wherever it has been traced, the opinion of its being a preservative against the small-pox, when extended to the human subject, seems to be equally prevalent. The cow-pox is familiar to the inhabitants of that highly valuable and celebrated dairy country, the Hundred of Berkley in Gloucestershire, where, fortunately for the public, it attracted the attention of Dr. Jenner. It has likewise been discovered in various parts of the counties of Wilts, Somerset, Buckingham, Devon, and Hants ; in a few places in Suffolk and Norfolk, where it is sometimes
called

called the *Pap-pox* (*d*), and in Leicestershire and Staffordshire.

It is not unfrequent in the very large milk farms contiguous to this metropolis, on the Middlesex side. It is here observed generally to attack first some cow newly introduced into the herd, and is supposed to originate in a sudden change from a poor to a very rich and partly unnatural diet, which it is the practice to use in order to bring the yield of milk to its highest point. The cow-

(*d*) See *An Inquiry concerning the History of the Cow pox*, by Dr. Pearson, whose early attention to this subject, and zeal in the prosecution of it, have much contributed to the interest which it has generally excited.

pox

Pox is likewise known in Ireland,
 in the neighbourhood of Cork, and
 is there called *Shinagh* (*e*). It has
 not yet been traced to the extensive
 dairies of Cheshire, or to any of the
 northern counties. Probably, how-
 ever, it will be frequently detected in
 a much greater number of places than
 have hitherto been found; for those
 that have been just mentioned include
 a considerable variety of country, and
 the disease has in general been ra-
 ther concealed by the servants, and
 milkers, as throwing some imputation
 on the neatness and good order of
 their dairies.

(*e*) See the *Medical and Physical Journal*,
 vol. iii. p. 503.

The history of the cow-pox would be imperfect, without mentioning the following very singular origin which has been attributed to it by Dr. Jenner. The horse is well known to be subject to an inflammation and swelling in the heel called *the grease*, from which issues a very acrid matter capable of exciting irritation and ulceration in any other body, to the surface of which it may be applied. This matter is supposed to be conveyed to the cow by the men servants of the farm, who, in several of the dairy counties, assist in milking. One of these, having dressed the horse, goes immediately to bear his part in milking; and, having some particles

particles of the discharge from *the grease* upon his hands, he thus applies it to the udder of the cows; where, if the animal be in a proper state for receiving the infection, it produces that specific change upon these parts, which gives rise to the disease of the cow-pox.

The origin here ascribed to this disorder is principally founded on the circumstance that, wherever the cow-pox appears, *the grease* is generally found to have preceded it; and the opinion of the propagation of the disease from the horse to the cow is likewise as commonly current in some of the dairy countries, as those other observations concerning the disease

which have been confirmed by accurate examination. Still, however, we must as yet consider this as one of the most dubious of all the facts that have been advanced on the subject ; and nothing but positive experiment can give much assistance in an inquiry pursued in a path so little trodden, as that of the particular modifications which a disease assumes, by passing through animals of different species. Among the collateral advantages to be derived from this subject, though not immediately connected with the adoption of the cow-pox in medical practice, we may expect with some confidence to receive some new ideas upon several momentous

tous questions which regard contagion in general,—a subject highly interesting to the physiologist.

It may be mentioned, that, as soon as this opinion concerning the origin of cow-pox was started by Dr. Jenner, attempts were made repeatedly, but without success, to introduce the disease in the nipple of the cow by direct inoculation of the recent matter of *grease* from the horse's heel. The consequence, (when any) which followed this operation, was a slight inflammation, and the production of a small pimple or pustule, the common effect of a wound made with any poisoned instrument, but which disappeared in a few days, without

exciting the specific disease of the cow-pox. The failure of these experiments, however, by no means overthrows the opinion which, if successful, they were meant to establish; since it seems to be fully ascertained, that a certain predisposition in the constitution of the cow to receive the disease is also requisite for its production; and hence it first appears in farms only at certain seasons, chiefly the spring, though, when once it has got footing in the herd, it will probably be communicated by contagion at any time (*f*).

We

(*f*) Mr. Tanner of the Veterinary College has however succeeded, it is said, in conveying the disease from the horse to the cow, by applying

We may add, that the matter discharged from the sores in the horse's heel is likewise found to occasion, at times, very troublesome ulcers on the hands of the men that dress it, attended with a very considerable degree of indisposition; both of which appear to be full as severe as in the genuine cow-pox, and in many points to resemble this latter disorder: but the person who has been infected by the horse, is not rendered thereby entirely secure from afterwards receiving the small-pox (g).

ing the matter of *the grease* to a larger surface than in inoculation by the lancet. See the *London Medical Review and Magazine*, July 1800.

(g) See Jenner, parts 1st. and 2d.

*II. Of the Casual Cow-Pox as affecting
the Human Species.*

Those pustular sores on the udder and teats of the cow, that constitute the genuine cow-pox, (whatever be the way in which they are produced) are found, by undoubted experience, to possess the power of infecting the human subject, when any part of the body, where the skin is broken or naturally thin, comes into actual contact with the matter which they discharge. Hence it is that, with the milkers, the hands are the parts that acquire this disorder accidentally, and it here exhibits the following appear-

appearances : Inflamed spots begin to appear on the hands, wrists, and especially the joints and tips of the fingers ; and these spots at first resemble the small blister of a burn, but quickly run on to suppuration. The pustule is quite circular, depressed in the middle, and of a blueish colour, and is surrounded with a considerable redness. The blue colour which the pustule almost invariably assumes, when the disorder is communicated directly from the cow, is one of the most characteristic marks whereby the genuine cow-pox may be distinguished from some other diseases which the milkers are likewise liable to receive from the cow. The mat-
ter

ter of the pustule is at first thin and colourless ; but, as the disorder advances, it becomes browner and more purulent. In a few days from the first eruption, a tenderness and swelling of the glands in the arm-pit comes on, and soon after, the whole constitution becomes disordered, the pulse is increased in quickness, and to this succeed shiverings, a sense of weariness, and aching pains about the loins, vomiting, headach, and sometimes even a slight degree of delirium.

These symptoms continue with more or less violence from one day to three or four, and, when they subside, they leave ulcerated sores about
the

the hands, which are very apt to become ill-conditioned and heal very slowly; resembling, in this respect, the ulcers on the nipple of the cow, from which they originate.

It is to be observed, that the cow-pox eruption, though very severe on the hands, and though occasioning much general illness, never produces a crop of pustules over distant parts of the body, arising spontaneously, as the small-pox does. It often happens, however, that pustules are formed in various places that accidentally come in contact with the diseased hands, as on the nostrils, lips, and other parts of the face, where the skin is thin; or sometimes on the forehead,

head, when the milker leans with that part upon the udder of an infected cow.

From this account, it appears that the cow-pox, as it affects the milkers, or what may be termed the *casual* cow-pox in the human species, is often a severe disorder, sometimes confining the patient to his bed during the period of fever, and generally leaving troublesome sores; but it has never been known to prove fatal; nor are these sores, if properly attended to, followed with any lasting injury of the affected parts, though they sometimes leave scars for life.

THE

THE very accurate investigation which this disorder has lately undergone, has established some very important points relative to its peculiar nature, which require to be particularly noticed, as upon them is founded the prospect of invaluable benefit which may arise to the public at large from substituting the inoculation of this disease to that of the small-pox.

The following facts may be considered as fully ascertained by the fairest experiments and most accurate observations :

First. The cow-pox in its natural state, or, when propagated immediately from an infected cow to the
 7 hands

hands of the milkers, is capable of affecting the human species repeatedly to an indefinite number of times; but, after the first attack, it is generally much milder in its symptoms, and especially it is much less liable to produce the fever and general indisposition which always attends the first infection. There are instances, however, where the second and even the third attack have been as severe in every respect as the first; but these are very rare.

Secondly. The small-pox in a considerable degree secures a person from the infection of the cow-pox, and in this respect appears to act in a manner very similar to a previous attack
of

of the latter disease ; that is, to confine its operation to the formation of local pustules, but unattended with general fever. Hence it is, that where all the servants of the dairy take the infection from the cows, those of them who have previously undergone the small-pox are often the only persons among them able to go through the usual work.

Thirdly. The cow-pox, in its genuine state, when it has been accompanied with general fever, and has run its regular course, ever after preserves the person who has been infected with it from receiving the infection of the small-pox. This most important fact, which has been
the

the subject of popular observation in several parts of the kingdom, long before the introduction of the cow-pox in medical practice was thought of, and therefore has the stamp of *unbiaſſed* evidence, may be now aſſerted with that confidence which is given by the uniform reſult of the of the moſt candid examination, conducted with ſcrupulous care, carried to a conſiderable extent, and authenticated by teſtimony of many years ſtanding (*b*). This aſſertion is however

(*b*) See Jenner, Woodville, Pearſon, and every other writer on the ſubject, for numerous caſes to this point. Thoſe from the dairy countries of perſons who took the cow-pox
when

ever to be taken with exactly the same limitations as that of one infection with the small-pox preventing a second attack of the same disease. No previous infection will entirely counteract the local effect on the arm, produced by the insertion of variolous matter in common inoculation: this may in a few cases even go so far as to induce a degree of general fever, slight indeed, but perhaps equal to

when young, by milking infected cows, and afterwards were frequently exposed to the variolous contagion in every possible way, are among the most striking and decisive examples. In several cases related by Dr. Jenner, the distance of time between the first infection and the subsequent attempts to infect, has been twenty, thirty, and even fifty years.

D

that

that of the mildest indisposition caused by a first infection with this disorder. By the inoculation of either disease, however, the small-pox is equally and completely disarmed of its virulence against any subsequent attack; which, in fact, is the circumstance which renders this operation so peculiarly desirable.

Fourthly. A comparison of the two diseases as to the mildness of their symptoms, and the hazard to life which they may occasion, will show a very decided advantage in favour of the cow pox. Compared with the natural small-pox, the natural or casual cow-pox is both milder, and beyond all comparison safer; as no
fatal

fatal instance of the cow-pox, as it affects the persons employed in dairies, has ever been recorded. When both diseases are introduced by artificial inoculation, they are each rendered much less severe, and here too the cow-pox preserves its superiority as a safer and milder disease.

Fifthly. The cow-pox, even in its most virulent state, is not communicable by the air, the breath, by effluvia, or in short, by any thing which constitutes *contagion* in the general estimation of this term ; but can only be propagated by the actual contact of matter from a cow-pox pustule, with some part of the body of the person who receives it. We cannot

D 2

exactly

exactly determine whether in all cases an *insertion* of the specific virus under the skin be necessary ; at least we know that when in its most active state, as it is when formed in the cow's udder, the vascular skin which covers the lips and nostrils readily takes the infection without being broken. In this respect therefore the cow-pox virus seems to equal that of the small-pox in activity, for the latter will readily produce the disease when merely introduced within the nostril (*i*) ; but the striking difference between the two diseases in the non-contagious nature of the cow-pox is

(*i*) This is the method of inoculating in some of the eastern nations.

a fact

a fact that is fully and satisfactorily ascertained. In the dairy farms, infected servants sleep with the uninfected, infants at the breast have remained with their mothers whilst only one of the two have had the disorder upon them (*k*), and in no instance has the disease of the one been communicated by contagion to the other.

A REVIEW of the facts that have been advanced will show a number of points in which the small-pox re-

(*k*) Mr. Henry Jenner gives his testimony to this fact from experiments made by him, for this express purpose.

fembles the cow-pox in a very striking manner ; but it will at the same time mark a very decided difference in others. Both the diseases are pustular, that is, they produce inflammations of a small extent, which gradually increase, and naturally and spontaneously terminate in the formation of matter : they both agree most strikingly in occasioning general fever, which comes on whilst the pustules are advancing towards a state of suppuration ; and they show a considerable similarity of nature by the change which each makes upon the constitution, so as in one case entirely, in another, to a considerable degree, to prevent the body from receiving the

the

the same or the other disease a second time. Another point of resemblance is, that each disorder is rendered much milder by inoculation; also, that some and the same persons resist entirely each infection from some peculiarity in the constitution, which cannot be explained (1); and lastly, that a certain progressive advance of the local affection, together with the regular accession of the febrile symptoms at a stated time, is requisite

(1) Dr. Woodville, whose experience on this subject carries the highest authority, estimates the number of those that resist common inoculation for the small-pox to be about one in sixty, and these also resist the reception of the cow-pox. *Observations on the Cow-Pox.*

in each, in order to produce that change upon the animal frame which tends to prevent a recurrence at any period of life.

With regard to the points in which the two diseases differ, some are only in degree; as, that the small-pox entirely prevents its own recurrence (one or two rare cases excepted) but only partially renders the constitution unable to receive the cow-pox: and *vice versa*, that the cow-pox completely preserves the body from the infection of the small-pox, and makes it only less susceptible of a repetition of the same disease. But the most striking point of difference, and that which renders the cow-pox so peculiarly valuable

valuable as a substitute for the other, is, its not being communicable by effluvia, or by any other method than by actual inoculation or contact with the specific pustular matter. It is this circumstance which gives it its great importance, considered in an enlarged and extensive view ; since, by adopting this disease to supply the place of the small-pox, all the dread and all the mischief that is occasioned by the unseen agency of an active and formidable contagion is entirely removed ; no anxious precautions are required in order to avoid and insulate an infested person, whose breath can spread disease on every side ; and thus the time of communicating the infection

tion, which is ever after to afford complete security against the variolous contagion, may be selected so as at all times to secure the most favourable condition of the body.



CHAP. II.

OF THE INOCULATED COW-POX.

EVERY one is acquainted with the important distinction which exists between the small-pox as propagated by contagious effluvia, and that communicated by artificial insertion of matter beneath the skin; and the decisive advantages which the *inoculated* disease possesses over the *natural* are universally acknowledged, though the precise cause of the superior mildness of the former is as yet but imperfectly known.

The

- The comparifon between this difeafe and the cow-pox entirely fails in the circumftance of contagion; for, as has been before obferved, the latter has never been obferved to be communicated in this method; and therefore, too, the term *natural* cow-pox cannot be employed in the fame diftinctive fenfe, as when applied to the variolous infection.

It is a curious and important fact, however, that the operation of inoculating with the cow-pox virus, performed in the fame method as is ufually practifed with that of the fmall-pox, appears to produce a very fimilar change with regard to rendering the difeafe more uniformly mild
and

and favourable ; though it cannot, like the other, shorten the period between the first moment of infection, and its effects on the constitution in general : since the cow-pox in its most natural state, as it affects the milkers of diseased cattle, is really received by a kind of inoculation, though accidental.

Therefore, as some very characteristic differences in the form of the disorder depend on the mode in which the cow-pox is introduced into the human system, we may be allowed to mark that distinction by employing the term *natural*, or rather *casual*, cow-pox in the human species, to express that disease which is contracted by those

who, in milking, handle the teats of an infected cow; and using the phrase *inoculated* cow-pox, to imply that disorder which is excited by the artificial introduction beneath the skin of some of the specific matter secreted by a cow-pox pustule, either in the cow, or more commonly in another human subject. As it is this form of the cow-pox with which the public are, and will be, the most concerned, and which will probably be adopted to assume a conspicuous place in medical nosology, there will be no great impropriety in confining to this form the term *vaccine* disease, which will express its origin from the cow, though probably it may never be
again

again necessary to return to the parent stock in this animal.

In treating of this disease as communicated by inoculation, it is first necessary to show that, in this form of the disorder, all the advantages are insured which attend the casual cow-pox; and it is not difficult to prove that the disease is as much the same in these two forms, as that the natural small-pox is the same distemper as the inoculated. In the cow-pox, the course that is run by each is very similar; they each produce a general fever at a certain period, and the pustules in each equally secrete the specific virus which can communicate the disease to others by subsequent inoculation.

inoculation. What is very remarkable, the cow-pox virus, after having passed through several persons, may be again communicated to the cow by direct inoculation in the nipples; and this again will return to the state of casual cow-pox, in the milkers who handle the udder of the animal thus diseased, which abundantly proves that the nature of the infection continues the same under these varieties. (m) Hence we should expect that the security which the inoculated cow-pox affords against the contagion of the small-pox, (which constitutes

(m) See Woodville's *Reports, &c. of Inoculations for the Cow-Pox*, page 62.

its chief value) would be equal to that which the casual cow-pox insures, and accordingly this is confirmed by the most authentic and unequivocal testimony (*n*). From the comparatively recent date of the experiments made with the inoculated cow-pox, the authority of forty or fifty years (which the other form of the disease possesses in the dairy countries) is wanting ; but as the very end of all

(*n*) To quote particular authorities for this fact, would be to refer to almost every account which has been given of every inoculation made in different parts of the kingdom with vaccine matter, as in fact they would be all quite futile without the *experimentum crucis* of resisting variolous contagion.

E

these

these trials has been to prove the vaccine inoculation a complete preservative from the variolous contagion, and as they have been attended with entire success, there is no reason to suppose that any number of years will produce such an alteration in the constitution, as to renew the hazard of variolous contagion in any habit where it has been once completely extinguished. The uniform experience of inoculation for the small-pox, which may be recurred to by fair analogy, would contradict such a supposition. Like this latter disease, too, certain precautions are to be taken, and observations made, in order to distinguish the cases of spurious

7

rious

rious and incomplete cow-pox, from that which is perfect and genuine.

The chief differences which exist between the casual and the inoculated cow-pox are in the degree in which each affects the body. As much of the severity of the disease depends on the extent of topical ulceration, the former, by producing larger and deeper pustules, generally occasions a much feverer disease; and these likewise are more liable to leave deep and extensive sores, long after the eruptive fever is subsided, which are difficult to heal. Another difference between the two forms of this disease is in the appearance of the pustules. Those which are formed by immedi-

ate infection from the cow are more prominent, and have a blueish cast, which is very characteristic. This particularly happens in the casual disease, though it is also retained in the first inoculation from the cow (*o*), but is undistinguishably lost after it has passed through one *generation* (if it may be so called) in the human subject.

THERE are several important circumstances belonging to vaccine inoculation, which deserve the atten-

(*o*) Woodville.

tion

tion of the medical practitioner, and which have been detailed with that minute and circumstantial description, so valuable in real practice. These will be conveniently arranged under a few distinct heads.

Of the Selection of Matter.

Dr. Jenner has laid down with great precision those sources of the spurious or imperfect cow-pox, that depend on the state and nature of the infecting matter employed for inoculation. They are; 1st, when the pustule that affords the matter is not the genuine specific cow-pox. This it is of particular importance to be aware of, when the disease is to be

introduced immediately from the cow ; for, as there is reason to believe that almost any acrid matter from any kind of pustule, when applied by inoculation to a sound surface, will there excite inflammation and a pustular sore, a mistake as to the nature of the virus thus introduced might easily happen, and would lead to much error and false security with regard to variolous contagion. The distinguishing marks of the true disease in the cow, have been already mentioned. 2nd, When the matter is genuine, and would be perfectly unexceptionable if employed on the spot, but, by being kept in a manner favourable to spontaneous alteration,

or

or preserved in a careless way, it has lost its specific properties. This will apply to infecting virus procured either from the cow or the human pustule, and from the frequent failure of matter to produce the disease, when it has been kept for a certain length of time, though with care, it seems to be probable that the vaccine virus is more liable to lose its peculiar properties than the variolous, and requires greater precautions to be preserved in sufficient activity.

3rd, When the matter has been taken from a true cow-pox pustule, but in that advanced stage of the disorder when it has degenerated into a simple ulcer, and has lost its infecting pro-

E 4
perties.

perties. This too will apply to the disease either in man, or in the cow ; and it is not very easy to fix the exact limits, when the local affection ceases to have any thing specific in its nature, and consequently to have the power of communicating the disease.

These three circumstances (in any of w^hich a partial and therefore highly deceitful disease may be excited by spurious inoculation) will direct the practitioner in the choice of the matter which he employs. The first and third belong, however, almost entirely to the disease in the cow and the casual cow-pox in the human subject. Where the virus is procured from the pustule in the arm of a person

son

son who has himself received the disease by inoculation, there is seldom any room to doubt of the nature of the disease; and as the pustule here rarely degenerates into an ulcerating sore, the matter which it yields may in general be taken for the purposes of inoculation, during the whole time that it can be at all collected, which we shall find, is only a few days.

The uniform mildness of the inoculated vaccine disease has hitherto afforded no grounds for any such distinction as good or bad, a healthy, or unhealthy sort of matter, which obtains (perhaps without foundation) in the small-pox; and no perceptible difference of quality has been ascer-
tained

tained, between matter procured from the inoculated pustule as soon as it begins to afford any fluid, and that which is taken ju't at the time when it is receding, and the scabbing process commences.

We may add, that hitherto no successive inoculations from one human subject to another have made any alteration, either in the nature of the disorder, or the appearance of the pustule, (after the first time of insertion from the animal; when, as has been mentioned, it retains some of the character of the casual cow-pox); and therefore, as long as the supply of vaccine virus is kept up by propagating the disease through successive inoculations

lations, there will be no occasion to return to the cow for a new parent flock.

Of the proper Subjects and Seasons for Inoculation.

The inoculated vaccine disease appears to have almost as great a superiority in point of mildness and security over the variolous inoculation, as this has over the natural small-pox: so that the same precautions which would be highly requisite in communicating the latter, (where the time can be chosen) become less so where the disorder is to be introduced by inoculation; and still less where the vaccine is substituted for the variolous

olous disease. The experience which the inoculated cow-pox already affords, seems to show that it may be practised with great safety at any age, even from the earliest infancy (*p*). In general, we may say that similar precautions are to be used here, as with variolous inoculation, so that even the vaccine disease should be avoided during the time of teething or any particularly unfavourable state of body; but we may assert with

(*p*) Mr. H. Jenner inoculated with the cow-pox an infant a few hours old. The child went through the disease with the usual appearances in the pustule on the arm, but without any perceptible fever. It afterwards, however, resisted the small-pox completely.

confidence

confidence that at any time it is preferable to running any considerable risk of the small pox contagion.

*Of the Method of Performing the
Inoculation.*

The object to be fulfilled in performing this operation is to secure the insertion of the infectious matter, with as little injury to the parts as is compatible with the end proposed. Uniform experience shows that in inoculating either with this or various matter, the method of making the incision is not a matter of perfect indifference; for, on the form and depth of the wound will in some measure

fure

ture depend the degree of violence in the subsequent inflammation. In making the puncture in the arm we cannot follow a better method than that recommended by Dr. Woodville (*q*), who advises “that the lancet should be held nearly at a right angle with the skin, in order that the infectious fluid may gravitate to the point of the instrument; which in this direction should be made to scratch the cuticle repeatedly, until it reach the true skin, and become tinged with blood.”

The most certain method of securing the infection is to inoculate whilst

(*q*) *Observations on the Cow-Pox*, 1800.

the

the matter is fluid, and fresh from the pustule; but as this is often impracticable, it is adviseable to hold the infected lancet for some time over the steam of boiling water, to soften and dissolve the hardened matter. Where the virus has been procured upon thread, the same means are to be pursued as when inoculating with varicellous matter; that is, to make a small longitudinal incision upon the arm, to apply to it the infected thread, and detain it there by adhesive plaster, till the disease is communicated. This method is found, however, to be more apt to fail than when the matter is received upon a lancet.

Progress

Progress of the Disease.

The progress of the vaccine inoculation, from the time of insertion to that of the drying-up of the pustule, is commonly very uniform, the different stages of the local and general affection well marked, and the successive changes occur for the most part at very regular periods. The following therefore may be considered as the history of this disorder which will represent the most usual progress of the vaccine inoculation.

The first indication of the success of the operation, is a small inflamed spot at the part where the puncture has been made, which is very distinguishable

tinguishable about the third day, and appears as represented in the plate, [Fig. 1.] (r). This continues to increase in size, becomes hard, and a small circular tumour is formed, rising a little above the level of the skin. About the sixth day, the centre of the tumour shows a discoloured speck, owing to the formation of a small quantity of fluid, [Fig. 2,] and this continues to increase, and the pustule to fill, and become distended, till about the tenth day. As soon as the pustule

(r) The figures in the plate were selected (through Dr. Pearson's obliging attention) from patients of the *Institution for Inoculating the Cow-Pox*, in Warwick Street, Golden Square.

F

contains

contains any fluid, it may be opened for future inoculation, and about two days before and after the eighth day affords a period of four days, when the matter is found to be in its greatest activity.

After the eighth day, when the pustule is fully formed, [Fig. 3,] the effects on the constitution begin to show themselves, the general indisposition is commonly preceded by pain at the pustule and in the arm-pit, followed by head-ach, some shivering, loss of appetite, pain in the limbs, and a feverish increase of pulse. These continue with more or less violence for one or two days, and always subside spontaneously without leaving

leaving any unpleasant consequence. During, or a little after, the general indisposition, the pustule in the arm, which had been advancing to maturation in a regular uniform manner, becomes furrounded with a broad circular inflamed margin, [Fig. 4,] and this blush is an indication that the whole system is affected; for the general indisposition (if it occurs at all) always appears on, or before, the time when the efflorescence becomes visible (s). After this period, the fluid in the pustule gradually dries up, the surrounding blush becomes fainter, and in a day or two

(s) Woodville's *Observations on the Cow-Pox*.

dies away imperceptibly ; whilst the pustule no longer increases in extent, but on its surface a hard thick scab of a brown or mahogany colour is formed, [Fig 5,] which, if not pulled off, remains for nearly a fortnight, till it spontaneously falls, leaving the skin beneath perfectly sound and uninjured.

The above is the uniform progress of the disease in the greater number of cases, with only the variation of a day or two in the periods of the different changes. The successive alterations that appear in the local affection (as represented in the plate) appear to be more constant, and more necessary to the success of the inoculation, than

than the general indisposition. With regard to this latter, the degree is very various ; very young infants often pass through the whole disease without any perceptible illness (*t*) ; with children it is extremely moderate ; but with adults it is sometimes pretty severe for a few hours, though never in any degree dangerous.

AMONG the occasional circumstances and varieties which now and then occur, and which the practitioner should be aware of, though

(*t*) See note (*p*).

they do not alter the nature of the disease itself, or render the patient at all less secure from receiving the advantages of the vaccine inoculation, are the following :

1. In a few instances a slight eruption or rash comes on around the inoculated part about the third day, which subsides spontaneously in a day or two without becoming pustular, and is entirely the effect of local irritation.

2. Sometimes, about the twelfth day, or after the general fever has ceased, the pustule, instead of showing a disposition to scab, remains considerably inflamed, the surrounding efflorescence increases in extent, and the
pustule,

pustule, if not properly treated, is apt to degenerate into a small ulcer, which will continue long in a purulent state, and at last become difficult to heal. This, we have seen, is much more liable to follow the casual cow-pox, than the inoculated; and in this state the matter which it secretes probably soon loses its specific power of communicating the cow-pox by inoculation.

3. A more important variety which has been observed sometimes to occur under particular circumstances, is the formation of complete pustules, both in the neighbourhood of the inoculated part, and on other parts of the body, which run a regular course,

similar to the pustule formed by inoculation, and become filled with a purulent fluid, which has likewise the specific property of communicating the disease by infection.

The appearance of these pustules may certainly be considered as a rare occurrence in the genuine cow-pox, and this has given rise to some difference of opinion concerning their origin.

Among the probable causes of a truly pustular eruption, we may mention two which appear to be fully ascertained.

The first is a rough and unskilful method of inoculation, where the wound is made deeper than necessary,
and

and an insertion of the infecting matter takes place within the cellular membrane. In this case, several pustules will often appear on different parts of the arm, and (as in the small-pox) the local affection of the inoculated part will be more liable to severe inflammation (*u*).

The second is the circumstance of.

(*u*) A farmer inoculated several persons with vaccine virus on the point of an awl; many of these had pustules which regularly filled with matter; but other patients, inoculated from these pustules with a lancet in the usual way, had no eruption, but went through the vaccine disease in the mildest and most regular manner. See in the *Medical Journal*, No. 14, — a letter from Mr. Grose of Winslow.

the patient being exposed to the contagion of small-pox, during the time that the vaccine inoculation is making its usual progress. The large proportion of pustular eruptions, and the greater severity of the disease, that occurred during the first experiments on the vaccine inoculation at the Small Pox Hospital near London, are accounted for on this ground (v).

Sometimes, however, in one or two rare cases, pustules will be formed without any assignable cause: this has happened in the inoculation of a considerable number of persons, by far the greater part of whom have not

(v) Woodville's *Observations on the Cow-Pox*.
had

had any appearance of this symptom.

It is a question which still remains to be determined, whether the pustules *at any time* partake of the nature of the variolous contagion ; and, if they do, whether in such cases the matter formed at the inoculated puncture is equally variolated. This is a question of considerable importance, as it may lead to a rejection of pustular vaccine cases from furnishing matter for future inoculation.

Several trials have, however, been made of inoculating with matter taken both from the arm at the place of incision, and from other parts of the body in these cases, but without certainly

tainly producing this variety of the vaccine disease (*w*).

The pustules do not always come to maturity, but often dry up and disappear before they contain any notable quantity of fluid. When they do advance to suppuration, they bear a perfect resemblance to the distinct pustules which are formed in the small-pox in its most favourable state.

(*w*) In the Rev. Mr. Holt's inoculation (*Medical Journal*, No. 10) three cases out of three hundred proved to be pustular; but in a subsequent inoculation of eight children with the matter taken from these pustules, no such appearance was produced, but the disease assumed the mildest form.—See also note (*u*), and Dr. Woodville's *Observations*.

Medical

Medical Treatment.

It is a particular recommendation of this disease, that, though some attention and discrimination is necessary in selecting the matter for inoculation, and performing this slight operation in such a manner as to insure success, and as we shall presently mention) in ascertaining, in some doubtful cases, whether or not the infection has fully taken, very little medical care is necessary in order to conduct the patient through it with perfect safety. Much of the hazard incurred in the small-pox is owing to a larger eruption upon the skin than the constitution can support ; and the degree of risk to life is in

in a great measure proportioned to the quantity of eruption; whereas, in the cow-pox, this symptom may for the most part be avoided, by guarding against some of the causes which produce it. and is never so severe as to give any ground for alarm.

The inoculated vaccine disease, with infants and children, is uniformly mild during the whole course from the first insertion to the scabbing process; and even in most cases is attended with so little fever as scarcely to be detected even by an attentive eye, and requires no medical treatment. Indeed, as the great object is to produce the disease in a form so perfect as to leave no doubt
about

about its appearance, and absolutely to secure the patient from any subsequent contagion of small-pox, it seems hardly advisable to take any measures to check the approach of fever about the eighth day, any otherwise than by preserving strictly that state of temperance which well regulated children are generally kept to during the earlier part of life. Therefore, the preparing medicines which usually make a part of the remedial process during inoculation with the small-pox, are scarcely requisite here, especially when children are the patients, except in those habits that suffer considerably at all times from any febrile attack. When the symptoms of fever

are

are manifest, and threaten to become at all severe, a brisk purgative, such as a dose of salts, generally produces very speedy relief. This is particularly useful when the patients are adults.

In the small-pox, after the eruptive fever has subsided, the pustule formed by inoculation is apt to degenerate into a tedious sore, and even abscesses form in the arm, which, in infants, have sometimes been followed by the most serious consequences. The same cause of complaint exists in the inoculated cow-pox, but the inflammation may generally be checked without difficulty, before it proceeds to any great height.

When

When the efflorescence comes on around the pustule about the tenth day, and the fever has subsided, we may consider the constitution as having done with the disease for every purpose of future security; and therefore the local affection of the arm may be put an end to, as soon as it can be done conveniently. In by far the greater number of cases, the scabbing or cicatrization succeeds the pustular process with perfect regularity, leaving for several days the appearance as in Fig. 5. Where this happens, no application of any kind to the parts should be employed; but, when the inflammation increases, when the inoculated pustule becomes

G painful,

painful, and the arm stiff, the mischief that is then threatened may, if neglected, give more trouble and indisposition than all the preceding part of the disease.

To prevent this, several local applications to the pustule may be employed, all of which for the most part check the inflammation very readily, and induce the healing process.

Mercurial applications from analogy with their known good effects in the local ulcers of the small-pox, have been tried, and with great success. The part affected should be daily dressed with common mercurial ointment, or, what is a more active preparation, the Red Precipitate of Mercury,
(Hydrar-

(*Hydrargyrus Nitratus Ruber*) in the form of an ointment. In two or three days after using this remedy the sore generally puts on a better appearance, and becomes disposed to heal, after which a simple dressing may be employed.

In many cases, however, nothing more is necessary to check the threatening inflammation, than to keep the part constantly moistened with vinegar and water, or Goulard's extract and water, till the pustule is dried up and only a hard scab left.

In order to put a speedy period to the local disorder when no longer necessary, it has been recommended, by Dr. Jenner and others, to apply

for a very short time some very active and corrosive solution, which may hasten the process of cicatrization, and prevent any trouble that might arise from fresh ulceration at the pustule. A drop of strong vitriolic acid taken up on the head of a probe and thus applied to the pustule for about a minute and afterwards washed off, or the undiluted Goulard's extract (*Aq. Lithargyri Acetati*) will answer this purpose, and shorten the cure of the local disorder. It is to be observed, however, that it is only very rarely, and in unusual inflammation protracted beyond the eighth or tenth day, that we should employ any of these remedies: and we should also be aware that, as they
will

will any time induce a premature scabbing, they would in all probability, if used too early, entirely extinguish the disease before it had rendered the constitution secure against the variolous contagion, and thereby the end of the vaccine inoculation would be defeated.

To conclude the comparison between the variolous and the vaccine disease, we may observe that there are two points in which they differ very sensibly,—in the form, and contents of the pustule. That which is formed by vaccine virus, in by far

G 3

the

the greater number of instances, continues perfectly circular during its whole progress, and at all times the edges are elevated, and the surface flat, and it does not show that prominence in the centre which arises from being quite distended with its contained fluid. The small-pox pustule at the place of insertion, while advancing to maturation, generally becomes jagged at its edges, and the outline is rendered irregular by clusters of small pustules, which in the end often become confluent, and leave a sore of a much greater extent than that of any single pustule, the subsequent progress of which, as has been mentioned, is frequently the cause of
much

much trouble, and sometimes of danger, to infants.

The inoculated cow-pox pustule, on the contrary, continues well defined through every stage ; and this perhaps is the reason why it much less frequently leaves any open sore at the time when the scabbing process should come on.

The contents of the respective pustules also differ. The fluid which the vaccine pustule secretes does not progressively change from a watery to a thick purulent matter, as in the small-pox, but continues thin and almost limpid, till it entirely disappears, and is succeeded by a hard brown shining scab, which latter is

harder, smother, and of a darker colour than that which attends the variolous pustule.

Where the vaccine inoculation is followed by no local disorder, or only a slight redness at the punctured part for a day or two, we can have no doubt that the operation has failed ; but cases sometimes happen where the failure is equally certain, but which require much more discrimination to be distinguished from those in which the disorder is complete and genuine.

The regularity with which the local disease at the place of inoculation runs through its several stages, seems to be the principal point to be
attended

attended to ; for the accession of fever is certainly not necessary to constitute the disease, since the greater number of infants have no apparent indisposition. Therefore, when the pustule advances in a very hasty and irregular progress (x), when the inoculated puncture on the second or third day after insertion swells considerably, and is surrounded with an extensive redness, this premature inflammation very certainly indicates a failure in the operation. Even when the inoculation has advanced for the first few days in a regular manner, but

(x) See the excellent practical observations in the latter part of Dr. Woodville's *Observations on the Cow-Pox*.

when,

when, about the sixth day, instead of exhibiting a well-formed pustule and vesicle of fluid, the part runs into an irregular festering sore, the purpose of operation is equally defeated ; and these varieties require to be watched with an attentive and experienced eye, since they might readily lead to a false, and perhaps fatal idea of security against any subsequent exposure to a variolous contagion.



CHAP. III.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS CONCERN- ING THE VACCINE INOCULATION.

A QUESTION of considerable importance has been suggested, arising directly from a review of the foregoing subject: namely, whether the cow-pox is not originally the parent disease to the small-pox, whilst the observed differences only depend on the length of time in which the latter disorder has passed through various constitutions in the human race.

The

The great similarity in the operation of each infection, and especially the change that the one makes upon the human constitution in rendering it either partially or entirely insensible to the power of the other (a fact without example in the history of physic), would imply at least a very intimate resemblance in the nature of each. If this question were answered in the affirmative, the immediate inference would be, that, by conveying the vaccine disease into the human constitution, it would in a series of years, through imperceptible gradations, at length assume the variolous nature. Hence it would happen, that the inoculated cow-pox would gradually
become

become a more severe disorder, and would at the same time be communicable by contagion, and no longer be the mild and safe disease that we now find it. Experience, however, as far as it has hitherto been carried, does not shew any approach to this state: the vaccine inoculation continues to promise as many and great advantages as it at first held out; the pustular cases (which are the most severe) are not more frequent than formerly, but on the contrary, we are now generally able to avoid them, by removing the causes from which they originate.

We may therefore safely continue the vaccine inoculation, without any

probable prospect of finding at last that we have only been introducing the variolous infection under a different form : but, even should this happen, there can be no risk as to the security from subsequent contagion of the small-pox (the ultimate end of inoculation), since it cannot be supposed that this security, which even at present is complete, should be at all *diminished* when the inserted disease approaches to a variolous nature. The possibility of such an event, however, should be an inducement to attend accurately to the disease in the cow, that, if necessary, we may at any time resume the original infection from the fountain head.

It

It has been often remarked, and is confirmed by constant experience, that the small pox, long after all its immediate effects have disappeared, is apt to leave the constitution peculiarly liable to suffer from scrophula, where a tendency to this disease existed in the body before the introduction of the small-pox. Therefore, although variolous inoculation will not convey the seeds of scrophula along with its own infection into a sound habit of body, it may be the cause of considerable trouble during the early part of life, in certain instances. The cow-pox has not been found to resemble the small-pox in this respect; whether from its great mildness, or from some
more

more obscure cause depending on a peculiarity of its nature, we are not able to determine : but, if the daily accumulating observations that are making on this disease continue to confirm this important circumstance, it will be an additional reason for its adoption in preference to the small-pox.

The cow-pox in any stage or kind of the disorder may be pronounced with confidence not to endanger life to any degree which can be estimated. In the inoculated small-pox, and much more so in that given by contagious effluvia, a certain portion, varying according to the season of the year, and the mild or malignant nature of
of

of the disease, are found to fall a sacrifice to its ravages. In common inoculation, this proportion is very small, so small indeed, as, where it occurs, to be generally an unlooked-for event, at least with the friends of the sufferer. Still, however, the risk to life may be estimated, and will always be felt in the anxiety of the parent. With the cow-pox the hazard is not appreciable. One solitary instance of a fatal event makes a very small ratio with the successful cases already on record, and the daily accumulation of these latter (which alone occur at present) renders the disproportion so small as almost entirely to extinguish every idea of danger.

This circumstance, it may be presumed, may have a very important operation on the minds of those who have long uniformly and consistently opposed on religious grounds the introduction of the inoculation of the small-pox. To these, this widely diffused practice has only been the source of mischief by extending this contagious distemper on every side and in every corner of the kingdom ; and, being withheld from enjoying the immediate benefit which it offers, they have not reaped an adequate recompense from the more indirect advantage of a better knowledge which inoculation has led to in the general treatment of the disease.

To

To those, therefore, who hesitate to endanger human life by a voluntary disease, however small the risk, and however great the promised advantage, the vaccine disease should stand in peculiar estimation, as it offers all the benefit which the variolous inoculation is known to insure, and removes to an extreme distance every hazard of a fatal event.

If future experience shall continue to confirm the important advantages which the cow-pox now offers to the human race, and if the establishment of this inoculation, so happily introduced to the world by Dr. Jenner's able investigation, shall continue to advance with the rapid progress that

has hitherto attended its steps, it will soon become an object of sufficient magnitude for universal attention, in every part of the world that is constantly experiencing the ravages of the small-pox; and the extirpation of this formidable malady from every civilized country will no longer be a very impracticable undertaking.

That the vaccine inoculation is peculiarly calculated to bring about this most desirable end, appears from a review of its leading features. Were even the advantages which it offers much less perfect than we find them to be were it only to secure from variolous contagion the greater part of those inoculated with it, or

9

only

only to exercise its preservative powers for a certain number of years, the mere circumstance of not being itself communicable by contagion might still render it worthy of notice in any general and national plan for extirpating the small-pox, though it would then no longer recommend itself to individuals.

But, since it possesses all the security to the infected person which the inoculated small-pox affords, it may be an additional motive of preference with many, that whilst the welfare of the individual is eminently consulted by employing the vaccine infection, no contagion is spread abroad of a disease, which, when acquired by contagion,

gion,

gion, is one of the most distressing in its symptoms, formidable in appearance, and doubtful in event, of any to which the greater part of mankind are exposed.



THE END.

MEDICAL

MEDICAL BOOKS PUBLISHED BY R. PHILLIPS.

AN ACCOUNT
OF THE
DISEASES OF LONDON

DURING THE YEARS

1796, 1797, 1798, 1799, and part of 1800;

WITH PRACTICAL OBSERVATIONS; &c. &c.

By ROBERT WILLAN, M.D. F.R.S.

*In One Volume Duodecimo, Price Five Shillings
in Boards.*

THE SOLDIER'S FRIEND :

OR,

THE MEANS OF PRESERVING THE HEALTH
OF MILITARY MEN.

Addressed to the Officers of the British Army.

By WILLIAM BLAIR, A.M.

Surgeon to the Lock Hospital and Asylum, and of the Old
Finsbury Dispensary.

(Price Two Shillings sewed.)

MEDICAL BOOKS PUBLISHED BY R. PHILLIPS,

The Medical and Physical Journal;

Continued on the First Day of every Month,

CONTAINING

THE ORIGINAL CORRESPONDENCE OF
EMINENT PRACTITIONERS,

And the earliest Information on Subjects of
MEDICINE, SURGERY, CHEMISTRY,
PHARMACY, BOTANY, AND
NATURAL HISTORY.

CONDUCTED BY

DR. BRADLEY,

Member of the Royal College of Physicians, London;
Physician to the Westminster Hospital, and to the
Asylum for Female Orphans; Lecturer on the
Theory and Practice of Medicine, &c. &c.

BY

DR. BATTY,

Licentiate of Midwifery in the Royal College of Physicians,
London: of the British Lying-In Hospital; Physician
to the Infant Asylum; Fellow of the Linnæan
Society; and Lecturer on Midwifery:

AND THE FOREIGN DEPARTMENT BY

DR. NOEHDEN,

A Resident Member of the University of Gottingen.

✎ The former Numbers of this Journal, which were
out of Print, having been reprinted, complete Sets, or
any single Number, may be had of all the Booksellers.
The First Three Volumes may be had in Boards, Price
One Pound Twelve Shillings.

PRINTED BY DAVIS, WILKS, AND TAYLOR,
CHANCERY-LANE.

Accession no. 22161

Author

Aikin, Charles R.

A concise view...

1801

37

Call no.

Inoculation

Vaccination

